



Developmental Disabilities Administration Monthly Programs Updates

Creating a flexible, person centered, family oriented system of supports so people can have full lives

****Self-Determination *Self-Direction *Employment *Housing *Supporting Families***

Federal Updates and Activities

Department of Labor – recently won a court appeal that allows them to move forward with their new rules that requires payments of minimum wage and overtime compensation for most home care workers. Additional information is available at: <http://www.dol.gov/whd/homecare/>

Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) - Congress enacted and the president signed WIOA to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. Additional information is available at: <http://www.doleta.gov/WIOA/FAQs.cfm>

CMS Announces Performance-Based Payment Options for Employment Services - States have the option to pay for employment outcomes based on averaged amount of time expected to take to complete the service and the cost per hour of service determined by the state. CMS would accept a payment structure that includes outcome payments for Discovery or Supported Employment Assessment Service and Report, or Job Development, Placement, Customized Employment Position, as a single unit of service as long as the service is time-limited, has a defined tangible outcome (such as a report or career plan in the first instance, or an actual job in the second).

FMI: CMS officials promised that formal guidance on these options will be issued soon. In the meantime, the presentation from the HCBS conference is available at http://www.nasddds.org/uploads/files/73c60c33-86aa-460f-8a10-f549fded5457_Medicaid_and_Employment_82715.pdf. The relevant section is near the end of the slide deck.

CMS Community Rule – Maryland’s Transition Plan

DDA Transition Team Meeting – The next meeting of the DDA Transition Team is scheduled for September 25, 2015, 2pm-4pm at the DHMH 201 W. Preston Street, L3 Baltimore MD 21201. The agenda includes an overview of a *draft Non-Residential Services Provider Survey*. Additional information about Maryland’s Plan can be viewed at: <http://dda.dhmdh.maryland.gov/SitePages/HCBS.aspx>

Maryland's Transition Plan – CMS is still reviewing our plan and anticipates responding by the end of September. They have created a website that provides information on all plans and CMS responses which can be viewed at: <http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/long-term-services-and-supports/home-and-community-based-services/statewide-transition-plans.html>

Rate Study – The independent contractor, Johnson, Villegas-Grubbs and Associates, LLC (JVGA) will be conducting the study and will hold a **town hall meeting on October 7, 2015 at the Holiday Inn 7900 Washington Blvd, Jessup, MD 20794 to share information and gathering input from the public.**

National Council on Disability (NCD) paper entitled “Home and Community-Based Services: Creating Systems for Success at Home, at Work and in the Community” – this paper provides a literature review of research related to the size and nature of settings in which individuals with disabilities receive HCBS and the implications of those settings on individual outcomes. In addition, the paper reviews the broader context for HCBS policy and practice, examining developments stemming from civil rights litigation, federal legislative and regulatory changes and self-advocate perspectives.

As noted in the paper, “[s]etting size is but one of several variables that must be taken into consideration in any assessment and analysis of an individual’s quality of life. However, the data make it clear that individual and family-scale settings are significantly more likely to be community-based, while larger and congregate settings are likely to be institutional in nature.” The paper also notes that “[s]mall, personalized, settings increase opportunities for personal satisfaction, choice, self-determination, community participation, and feelings of well-being. Small settings are similarly associated with decreases in (1) the use of services, (2) feelings of loneliness, and (3) service-related personnel and other costs.”

The paper, attached, will be available on the NASDDDS website in addition to the NCD website at <http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2015/02242015>.

Community Pathways Waiver Update

Person-Centered Planning Surveys results revealed the majority of people who responded agreed with the recommendations. The report can be viewed at: http://dda.dhmdh.maryland.gov/SitePages/Developments/2015/MD_PersonCenteredPlanning%20and%20OutcomesReport_Final.pdf

Employment Updates

DDA Monthly Employment 1st Webinar Series – DDA is conducting monthly webinars on various topics related to employment. In August we covered Community Learning Services and Employment Customization and Discovery. The next one is scheduled for September 18, 2015 with Patricia Sastoque, DDA Deputy Director of Programs sharing the DDA plans for transformation. Please stay tuned at 10:00 the third Friday of every month.

Employment First Workgroups are finalizing their recommendation. The information will be compiled to form Maryland's Employment 1st Work Plan. Next steps include sharing the plan with all stakeholders for input. For additional information please contact Karen Lee, DDA Employment Fellow at Karen.lee@maryland.gov.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (P.E.T.S) - WIOA requires Vocational Rehabilitation agencies to set aside at least 15% of their Federal funds must be used to support “Students with Disabilities”. *Maryland’s Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)* has been drafting informational items and considering interim processes and policies. They have \$6 million in their budget for P.E.T.S programs. A Student with a Disability is defined as an individual who: (1) is still enrolled in secondary school and has not exited, graduated, or withdrawn; (2) is at least 14 years old but less than 22; and (3) has a disability (receives services under an IEP, 504 plan, or has a disability for purposes of section 504).

The limited Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) that may be provided, based on identified need and the availability of services, include: (1) Job exploration counseling; (2) Work-based learning experiences, which may include in-school or after school opportunities, experiences outside of the traditional school setting, and/or internships; (3) Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in Comprehensive Transition or Post-Secondary Educational programs; (4) Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living; (5) Instruction in self-advocacy.

Employment First State Leadership Mentor Program (EFSLMP)- Maryland is applying to continue our participation in year two of the Department of Labor’s (DOL) Office on Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). During the grant year, DDA will continue to work with 6 agencies on “provider transformation”. The 6 agencies in the Community of Practice CoP are; The Arc Baltimore, St. Peter’s, Compass, Spring Dell Center, The Benedictine School, and Way Station. They will continue to receive consultation, training and technical assistance as well as help DDA shape future employment policies. Stay tuned to hear about the work of these 6 dedicated agencies in the E1st CoP. In addition DDA will benefit from the knowledge and leadership of national experts on other policy areas impacting School to work transition.

Clinical Updates

Health Risk Screening Tool - HRST - DDA is sponsoring two (2) live webinars on the Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST). To register - simply click on the Register link and select the date that work's best for you either September 30, 2015 from 10 -12 or November 9, 2015.

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/3812015977771632897>

New Nurse-The DDA is happy to announce Wendy Shaffer-Yingling as the new Western Regional Office Nurse. She can be reached at wendy.shaffer-yingling@maryland.gov effective September 30, 2015.

Share our updates

Get the word out – If your friends, families and advocates want to receive DDA monthly updates, please JOIN OUR MAILING LIST at <http://dda.dhmf.maryland.gov> and click on “join our mailing list”